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men had no particular trouble in extinguishing the fire in the wooden trim of the vessel, but even special squads equipped with gas masks could not get at the seat of the fire. In oil fires water may not only fail to smother the flames but may actually spread the fire, the burning oil floating on the water as it is pumped toward the heart of the fire. In small blazes sand may be used by the firemen, but in great fires this is impracticable. A number of chemical compounds have been put on the market to meet this emergency, but it is not to be expected that these will be on hand in sufficient quantity for a grave emergency.

Undoubtedly the firemen and the fire underwriters who are constantly seeking practicable methods to decrease the fire loss will evolve plans to meet the new conditions. It is plain, however, that they will never find any successful substitute for unremitting watchfulness on the part of those charged with safeguarding oil burning machinery and oil storage tanks. Eternal vigilance is the price of safety from fire for property and life as it is the price of liberty.

Business in a Tariff Fog.

If Representative LONGWORTH is serious about his resolution to have the new customs duties effective from the date on which the Ways and Means Committee reports the tariff measure to the House he must have a very faint, not to say feeble, conception of the fundamental laws which govern business. Business can face with courage even a rocky future that is clear. It can manage to operate in some fashion or other on any basis that is certain. But the one thing that business cannot do is to navigate in a fog.

Importers could grope in no more hazardous adventure than a tariff fog, where nobody could offer to sell anything at a flat price for future delivery with an idea of what would be the cost of laying it down in this country. Nobody would dare to buy such imported goods for future delivery subject to whatever the tariff might turn out to be, for when he came to pay the duties in the final price settlement it might put him to a bankruptcy loss.

For the matter of that, under such circumstances domestic business transacted for the future would become a risk because neither the domestic manufacturer selling goods nor the domestic merchant buying them for the next season could know on what basis the foreign goods would compete with theirs.

And for years and years customs officials, lawyers, the courts and business houses would be spending incalculable time and money trying to settle the complexities, differences and damages growing out of such an impossible tariff situation.

Industry and business are slow enough now. Their one hope is for a better future. But if anybody could make industry and business more cautious about the future than they already are about the present it would be an indefinite, hazy, foggy tariff preventing anybody from forecasting the future.

Why is it that business sense cannot be applied in the halls of legislation to business matters?

Dutch Entrepot Commerce.

Consul-General ANDERSON at Rotterdam calls to the attention of the Department of Commerce at Washington the sudden and extremely adverse trend of Dutch foreign trade since the armistice. The figures submitted by Consul ANDERSON in conjunction with the details of our trade with Holland given in the trade reports for this country indicate that the ordinary commerce of the Netherlands has been completely submerged in the great wave of entrepot trade with Germany, just as Belgium was submerged by the wave of 1914.

Holland has had for several years a moderate excess of imports, for she is so situated as to require more produce for her own sustenance than she is able to pay for in visible exports. She has a considerable income from her colonies and her merchant marine. This in normal times more than cancelled the visible trade deficit. But the great expansion of her imports and the consequent addition to the trade deficit in 1919 and 1920 was many times larger than her income from sources other than actual exports and cannot be explained on the grounds either of necessary restocking or of extravagant after war spending. Her exports and imports and balance of trade, as stated by Consul-General ANDERSON, were as follows (in guilders, 000,000 omitted):

Year.	Imports.	Exports.	Imp'ts.
1917	..... 864	..... 819	..... 145
1918	..... 608	..... 381	..... 227
1919	..... 2,825	..... 1,411	..... 1,414
1920	..... 3,333	..... 1,702	..... 1,631

Our own trade reports show that exports to Holland jumped from \$81,000,000 in 1918 to \$255,000,000 in 1919 and \$246,000,000 in 1920, and with the Dutch guilders at its present depreciated level this accounts for almost half the addition to the adverse trade balance of the Netherlands in the last two years. Our exports of corn to Holland jumped from 46,000 bushels in 1918 to 423,000 in 1920. Our exports of wheat to that country were worth \$2,000,000 in 1918 and \$11,000,000 in 1920. There was a similar increase in Holland's purchases of flour, coal, copper, oil and meat, and the largest increases of all were in milk and meat cases.

These are exactly the products

sorely needed in Germany and Austria for which there was no great accumulated demand in Holland because she could obtain them even during the war in her own ships and in quantities close to normal.

Holland's adverse trade balance of the last two years is not a sign of weakness but of strength. She has been a veritable economic bulwark for Central Europe, and to her can be attributed much of the improvement which has so far taken place in Germany. Before the other nations had recovered from the demoralization of sudden peace the shrewd Dutch merchants and bankers had maneuvered their commercial craft into a position of advantage and were ready to sail out on the calmer seas. Before the ink was dry on the armistice they had the old familiar sign "Business as Usual."

Dutch trading ingenuity is second to none. Holland is all that the perfect buffer State should be, having highly specialized, efficient machinery for international and entrepot commerce and for garnering profits where others fall upon losses. When the Dutch trader spends a guildler he knows two will come back in return. Why, then, become alarmed about a few billions on the adverse trade balance which eventually will be returned with interest? The bigger the net, the bigger the catch.

Beating the White Plague.

Elsewhere on this page we print the gratifying announcement of the New York Tuberculosis Association that modern methods of hygiene are beating the great white plague in this city. The death rate from all forms of this disease is falling steadily. The number of deaths is decreasing actually, as well as in proportion to the population. Modern treatment is saving the lives of persons afflicted with the disease and is preventing its spread to others.

This success should be more than gratifying. It should be inspiring; it should inspire individuals, corporations, private associations for civic betterment, public officials, to renewed efforts to accomplish the supreme object of sanitation: the elimination of tuberculosis with its still terrible toll on human happiness and usefulness.

The ambition to stamp tuberculosis out utterly is not a dream of folly. The disease is preventable; like typhoid fever, which to our children's children should be merely a horrible memory, it has been proved that intelligence and energy will end its ravages.

United, vigorous action is all that is needed to complete the success already begun. If we are satisfied with what we have done, if we fail to regard the record already made as anything except a stimulus to further efforts in the future, we shall fail of our duty to ourselves and to human kind in general.

Golf as a Luxury.

A golfer who says that he can hit the ball and can come in with ninety-one writes to this paper complaining of the crowded condition of the public courses and of his inability on account of the high cost of golf on private courses to indulge his fondness for the game. "Can't something be done," he asks, "so that a person who has taken the trouble to learn golf and isn't a millionaire may get a chance to play somewhere once in a while?"

The complaint which our correspondent makes is one which has increased in frequency with the growth in popularity of the game, and is made not only by the golfer but by him who would like to be one. It is too by no means confined to New York but is uttered in cities which have nearer to their centres of population much more land available for public or private links. In England there has been for some time an insistent demand for larger opportunities for golf players, and the London Times has recently been giving especial prominence to proposals which might remedy the present limited facilities.

The public courses, although they have increased in number, have not met the public demand, so far as Saturdays and Sundays are concerned, despite the fact that they are seldom crowded on other days of the week. Our correspondent gives this as his experience:

"I go to Van Cortlandt at 8 in the morning but cannot get off until 2 in the afternoon and I find congestion at every tee. I cross the hill to Jerome Park and find 300 players registered ahead of me at Moshulu. Pelham is almost as bad."

There has been likewise a notable increase in the number of private courses. Most of the older clubs have large waiting lists and in the case of many of them their stocks or bonds held by the members have doubled or tripled in value. The dues, charges and the ground fees have been increased, the clubs asserting that this is necessary in order to meet the current expenses. One reason for this, it is said, is that the golfer is now more fastidious in his demands than in the past; he must have a luxurious clubhouse with splendid bath and locker rooms, greens which appear almost shaved, bunkers carefully raked and fairways as smooth as greens. Besides this there must be high priced professionals and "golf architects."

The personal expense of the golfer too has been increased by "a multiplicity of natty paraphernalia, the itching palm of the caddy, elaborate luncheons and his wagers on the game." But despite the increased expense the number of private courses

seems to grow with every season and organizations have apparently no great difficulty in securing members. One club on Long Island formed last winter and which secured a tract of land large enough for two eighteen hole courses and for the erection of a commodious clubhouse is not yet open but it has a waiting list of ninety-eight in excess of the several hundred members as originally planned. But the fact remains that these new ventures are expensive; most if not all propose the purchase of bonds and dues at \$100 or more a year. And our correspondent adds: "I can't afford a car and a caddy and the purchase of a couple of thousands of dollars' worth of bonds added to heavy initiation fees and dues."

But the remedy for the conditions which the correspondent sets forth is not easy. The public courses are likely to be crowded on Saturdays and Sundays; it would be difficult to limit the players or to equalize things by getting more persons to use the links on other days. One solution which proved successful in England was that of the Winchester Royal Golf Club, which opened its links to men of moderate means for a fee of \$2.50 a year each.

Another successful plan was that of "playing membership," by which golfers had the use of the links for comparatively small fees. There would also appear to be something in the suggestion that the luxurious clubhouse be dispensed with and the upkeep reduced to the minimum by going back to the simplicity of the early days of the game, when built up tees were unknown, the bunkers remained as nature left them, and work on green and fairway was not slavishly overdone.

Soft Coal Wages and Prices.

Soft coal operators complain that their bituminous product is confused with anthracite or hard coal; that the soft coal prices are very much down as compared with a year ago, and that if the consumers do not buy at the lower quotations they keep miners out of employment by the thousands and do not help to "improve general industrial conditions."

But as the great bulk of the soft coal used is by railroads and manufacturing plants, which know perfectly well the difference between the bituminous and the anthracite fuel, there is no possibility that such large and expert consumers are refusing to buy because of any misunderstanding as to the two kinds of coal. Furthermore, whether soft coal is \$2 or \$3 a ton cheaper at the mines than it was a year ago, when it was outrageously high, is not the point at all for industrial consumers. The point for them is whether the coal at present mine prices, transportation charges and other handling costs is too dear to be used profitably now in existing business conditions; and it is.

Coal workers may have a contract war inflation wage scale which does not permit the mine owner to readjust the war inflation wages until next year, but if they cannot get work at the prohibitive scale it ought to be possible to make them see that they would be better off to readjust the war inflation scale so as to get a chance to dig coal and draw pay.

Railroads may have a war inflation coal traffic rate fixed by the Interstate Commerce Commission, but if they cannot get the coal to haul at that war inflation rate it ought not to take them long, after their own war inflation wages come down, to go to the Commission and arrange a revision of the traffic rate so as to get a chance to haul the coal.

The business that does not work out the price readjustments that are imperatively required by after war conditions is in for a short but not a merry life. The labor that will not agree to a revision of war inflation wage scales to enable the national industrial wheels to turn again looks into a jobless future.

It is characteristic of American confidence in popular education that among the first persons consulted by General LEONARD WOOD in his investigation of affairs in the Philippines were the teachers. The report of governmental and social conditions the pedagogues can give is likely to be illuminating and dependable.

An Indian who says he is 130 years old has demanded 100 years back pay from the Government. An unpaid centenarian may be a luxury, but a good many persons would be glad to subsidize him if they could learn how he accomplished his great age.

Mayor Hylan's request that the flag be displayed at half mast to-morrow while services are held over the bodies of our soldiers at the army piers in Hoboken should be heeded by all. There is no honor too high to be paid to these brave men and their stricken survivors.

A thief who confessed yesterday complaining that he stole \$18,000 but got only \$700. Some times the great truth that dishonesty does not pay will win general recognition.

The Necklace. Where green and tall the grasses wave And longest lies the dew, Half hidden in their clustered leaves Of vivid emerald hue, And yielding treasures of perfume To every robber gale, Behold the sweetest flowers that grow, The lilies of the vale.

They shimmer in the morning ray And glimmer in the shade, Their dainty blossoms neatly strung On slender threads of jade Like rows of graduated pearls, For May, the madcap lass, While romping with the south wind lost Her necklace in the grass.

MINNA IRVING. WILLIAMSBURG, May 20.

To THE NEW YORK HERALD: The De Witt Clinton's trial reminds me that I have a medal presented to Governor De Witt Clinton when he broke ground for the Erie Canal July 4, 1817. It is encased in a box made out of a piece of wood brought from Erie in the first canal boat, the Seneca Chief.

My mother was the adopted daughter of General James Clinton's son James, a brother of Governor De Witt Clinton.

ANGUS A. HAYES.

Beating the White Plague.

Tuberculosis Can Be Eliminated; to Eliminate It Is Our Duty.

To THE NEW YORK HERALD: It is very gratifying to be able to announce that not only has New York city already witnessed the greatest decrease in tuberculosis in the city's history during the years 1919 and 1920—the death rate of 1920 having been 126 from all forms of tuberculosis among each 100,000 living here, or 32 per cent. less than in 1918—the reports of the first four months of 1921 now to hand indicate that this most hopeful situation is still continuing.

The number of new living cases of pulmonary tuberculosis registered in the city up to May 1 since the beginning of the year was 4,375, or 11 per cent. less than in the same period last year, when they totalled 4,941.

Few realize how great a foe tuberculosis is to workers. In the period 1910-1920 the statistics of deaths in this city show the following facts:

Deaths from smallpox, Asiatic cholera, cerebro-spinal meningitis, typhoid fever, measles, diphtheria, influenza ("the flu") and cancer combined.....98,022

Deaths from tuberculosis.....90,281

In other words, there were more deaths in the city straight along from tuberculosis alone than from eight other diseases combined.

And yet tuberculosis is preventable. The above showing means simply bad housing, poor or insufficient food, lack of fresh air, overwork and too little rest.

Tuberculosis can be largely stamped out, in time even wholly, and the recent decrease is full of legitimate encouragement. The work of dealing with the disease, however, is very great and is continuously pushed in order to be continuously effective. We shall be glad to give helpful information to all who may inquire of us.

NEW YORK TUBERCULOSIS ASSOCIATION, 10 East Thirty-ninth Street, New York, May 20.

Fifth Avenue Hopes.

Steps Taken to Effect Two Reforms in the Thoroughfare.

To THE NEW YORK HERALD: In answer to the two suggestions for the improvement of Fifth avenue made by one of your correspondents we desire to say that there is before the Corporation Council a proposed amendment to the parade ordinance of the city which will prescribe certain routes for parades. It is hoped that this will be presented to the Board of Aldermen for passage very shortly.

If passed Fifth avenue will be relieved of a great deal of the discomfort and confusion caused by so many of these parades.

In regard to the second suggestion Park Commissioner Gallatin has advised as follows: "The Salvation Army drive permission will not be given to use the Public Library for any further drives or similar enterprises."

We desire to say also that we welcome inquiries of any kind, as well as constructive suggestions in regard to the Fifth avenue district from both non-members and members.

THE FIFTH AVENUE ASSOCIATION, INC. New York, May 20.

Flags on Memorial Day.

The British Great War Veterans Will Show Only Stars and Stripes.

To THE NEW YORK HERALD: Because of protests from certain parts of the G. A. R. and the American Legion against the carrying of the allied colors in the Memorial Day parade the British Great War Veterans of America at their meeting Thursday evening unanimously passed a resolution to carry only the Stars and Stripes, although they had been invited to carry the Union Jack presented by the Prince of Wales.

In passing this resolution the British Veterans feel that they are winning a moral victory. They are parading to honor the dead, not to wave flags. If others wish to desecrate Memorial Day by using it to foster ill feeling and discord they will get no encouragement from the members of the British veterans association.

This association is grateful to the American Legion for its invitation to carry the British flag, but will waive the privilege rather than add any fuel to the fires of ill feeling which are being kept well stoked by certain elements in New York.

WILLIAM NEWMAN CHEW, Director of Publicity British Great War Veterans of America, Inc. New York, May 20.

Good Western Collies.

Different in Type From Eastern Show Dogs, They Killed No Sheep.

To THE NEW YORK HERALD: I spent a year on one of the largest sheep ranches in the Northwest. We covered some twenty-five miles of range, had five ranch houses and at our main ranch kept between forty and fifty collies.

I have most happy days at the hills with some of these dogs and worked with them and therefore I know their characteristics. In the spring we used to kill lambs that were injured beyond cure and feed our dogs with the meat. Thus the dogs certainly tasted blood, yet in the time I spent out there I never heard of a collie killing a sheep or lamb.

They were gentle dogs, with a gentle spirit, easily broken. With a general purpose, they were mothers had mated with coyotes; even these dogs showed the characteristics of the pure bred. Our collies were smaller dogs than the show collies one sees on the Eastern fancy farms, and very few of them were marked with white. Tan with black markings prevailed throughout the lot.

The outlay type of collie seems to be confined to the East.

CHARLES H. BARCOCK, New York, May 20.

Governor Clinton's Erie Medal.

To THE NEW YORK HERALD: The De Witt Clinton's trial reminds me that I have a medal presented to Governor De Witt Clinton when he broke ground for the Erie Canal July 4, 1817. It is encased in a box made out of a piece of wood brought from Erie in the first canal boat, the Seneca Chief.

My mother was the adopted daughter of General James Clinton's son James, a brother of Governor De Witt Clinton.

ANGUS A. HAYES.

WILLIAMSBURG, May 20.

\$15,458 Paid for Rugs at Final Sale

Lawrence Fabrics Sold at American Galleries—Ruiz

Antiques Bring \$55,104.

Hook rugs from the collection of C. E. Lawrence of Belmont, Mass., were sold yesterday afternoon at the final session of the final sale of the season at the American Art Galleries. The day's sale totalled \$11,372 and an entire sale of 358 pieces totalled \$15,458.

A late eighteenth century American square die hook rug brought the high net price of the day, selling to Mrs. J. F. Erdmann for \$420. It was a closely hooked rug with bordered squares in dark and pale blues, pinks, grays, tans, lavender, ivory and soft yellow, altogether a beautiful piece of color. A rare Egyptian hook rug, early American, with hooked unusually close and heavy and a design of flowers and fruit cut and finely modelled in relief, was bought by Otto Berner, agent for a private purchaser, for \$320.

An early American rug of unique design and color displaying an eagle perched upon the American flag in the center and a scroll with the words "E Pluribus Unum" in the border, was sold to W. R. Hearst, agent, for \$240 each for an eighteenth century American rug with a pattern of interlocking square and cruciform motifs in the manner of a tile mosaic, and an exceptionally heavy early American floral rug was bought by Emil Fefferman for \$200, and an early American rare scroll rug was sold to E. A. Sheehan for \$140.

At yesterday's session in the Ruiz sale of Spanish antiques at the Clarke Galleries a sixteenth century carpet, originally from a convent in blue, green and yellow, The Sister Art Shop paid \$1,900 for a fine embroidered cloak of the sixteenth century covered with a Renaissance design of the saints in gold thread, the body embroidered with a design of branches. The total for the sale to date is \$55,104.

W. R. Hearst acquired a variety of objects, including a sixteenth century Spanish baroque, with gilded frame, made in Bargas (Toledo), for which he paid \$1,000; a walnut cabinet with a church chorus, with coat-of-arms of a cardinal, sixteenth century workmanship, for \$920; a sixteenth century Spanish baroque, with a medallion in gold thread, made in Bargas (Toledo), for \$1,000; a primitive Gothic painting, dating from the fifteenth century, representing "The

Field Day at West Point. Special Despatch to THE NEW YORK HERALD. WEST POINT, N. Y., May 20.—Army is planning a field day for to-morrow. The day's sale totalled \$11,372 and an entire sale of 358 pieces totalled \$15,458.

The track meet, the first in which Army has ever participated. The polo game with Princeton will be played at Harriman. All the other events will take place here.

Greene Estate Goes to Widow.

The will of Col. Francis Vinton Greene, one-time Police Commissioner, who died May 16, was read yesterday. It gave his entire estate to his widow, Mrs. Belle Chevalier Greene. She is named as executrix. The document was only eight short paragraphs long, written in the decedent's own hand last summer. No petition setting forth the amount of the estate accompanied the filing.

Mistakes by Pupils.

Results of a Spelling Test in English in a High School.

To THE NEW YORK HERALD: The following examples were dictated to the first year class in a high school several years ago. The high school is a part of the system of schools of which great things are boasted; it is likewise the costliest school system in any city of the same population in the United States. The examples were taken from books used in the schools. They are given here exactly as they appear in the adopted texts. Ninety-four pupils engaged in the tests:

In the world's broad field of battle, In the bivouac of Life, Be not like dumb, driven cattle, Be a hero in the strife.

"Come, Margaret," said Mrs. Bailey to her daughter, "let's have our luncheon." The figures opposite the words show the number of times each was incorrectly spelled:

broad	..... 8
field	..... 10
world	..... 1
battle	..... 1
bivouac	..... 74
not	..... 1
like	..... 1
dumb	..... 28
driven	..... 2
cattle	..... 2
strife	..... 2
come	..... 2
Margaret	..... 42
daughter	..... 12
luncheon	..... 12

Forty-three omitted the apostrophe in "world's"; forty-two omitted it in "let's"; thirty-five forgot the period after "Mrs."; twenty-nine omitted the quotation marks in the last example or else misplaced them. There were eleven unquestionable errors in the use of capital letters. Nine failed to line the stanza. "Cattle" was misspelled. The stanza from Longfellow was selected because it contained the word bivouac. The poem itself had been memorized by many of the pupils, probably most of them. The custom of reciting it in unison was common. The test, so far as this particular word is concerned, was to ascertain whether or not the word had any meaning to the pupils.

The fact that it was spelled in sixty-five different ways indicated that it had no meaning to any except the ten pupils who spelled it correctly. An examination of the written exercises indicated several cases of defective hearing and a larger number of cases of defective vision.

Another test with elementary school pupils showed that the sound of r is proper in "law" but not in "goil." The fact confirms the opinion of a lady who occupies a responsible post in the editor's room of a magazine of very high standing. "The fact is," she said, "thirty years of college requirements have made the English language a patois and English pronunciation a gibberish."

Latin, Greek, French, Spanish and German are studied in the schools of the system. There might be a dim suspicion, however, that English is a dead language. Judging by results it is.

ONE TRUE SCHOOL TRUSTER, MOUNT VERNON, May 20.

And Other Times Too.

From the Great Bend (Kan.) Tribune. Hook agents could greatly aid in restoring peace and harmony to this country if they would cease ringing the doorbell when the housewife is in the bathtub.

Developing Interest. From the Brackley (Ark.) Argus. If you think that Brinkley people are not full of suggestions just start down the street and tell them that you've got a bad cold or a boil on your back.

A Texas Suggestion. From the Galveston News. Another good way to please a young mother is to say the baby has her eyes and its father's mouth.

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